

REMARKS

Applicants have considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are directed to patentable subject matter and are in condition for allowance as set forth below.

The outstanding rejections are as follows:

- (1) Claims 1-3, 5-7, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 811,332 (Rufli) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,638,440 (Brough); and
- (2) Claims 9 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Rufli.

Applicants initially thank the Examiner for the consideration shown at the Interview with applicants' representative.

Independent claims 1 and 24 have been amended to further define the path of the claimed device as including at the entry position of the path a guide channel to receive the trimmings and products aligned in a row extending substantially parallel to a direction of advancement. Such amendment is considered to further distinguish the claimed device from that disclosed in the primary reference, Rufli.

Rufli, in order to carry out its disclosed purpose of sawing planks into blanks of wood, requires that the planks be fed into the machine at a right angle to the saws.

Accordingly, Rufli does not teach or suggest a device having a path including a guide channel at an entry position thereof to receive trimmings and products in a row extending substantially parallel to a direction of advancement. No suggestion is provided to modify the device of Rufli in such a manner as to obtain applicants' claimed device since such would render Rufli unsuitable for its intended purpose. The secondary reference, Brough, is relied on simply to teach a difference in speed as to two conveyors and also does not teach or suggest a device as claimed or make up for the shortcomings of Rufli.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the claimed device is not obvious in view of the applied art within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §103. Withdrawal of the outstanding rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 as set forth above is therefore requested.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

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